



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Tennessee News Release

Cooperating with Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Tennessee Field Office · PO Box 41505 · Nashville, TN 37204 · (615) 781-5300 · www.nass.usda.gov

USDA TO SURVEY FARMERS' PLANTING INTENTIONS FOR 2007

Nashville, February 2, 2007 – How many acres of corn do Tennessee farmers intend to plant this growing season? Will intended acreage be above last year due to the increased interest in alternative fuels? These are just a couple of the critical questions the Tennessee Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be asking more than 1,700 producers statewide as part of the March Agricultural Survey.

"The March Agricultural Survey is one of the most important surveys conducted each year by NASS," explained Debra Kenerson, Director of the Tennessee Field Office. "This survey will provide the first official estimates of U.S. farmers' planting intentions for 2007, giving a glimpse at the upcoming growing season."

"Data from the March Agricultural Survey benefit farmers and ranchers by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical decisions for their operation. When finalizing cropping and marketing plans, this survey will be one of the most important sources of information for producers," added Kenerson.

Beginning the end of February, selected Tennessee producers will be contacted by mail or telephone and asked to provide information on the acreage they intend to plant for the 2007 crop year. NASS will also collect data on quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on-farm. The information will be compiled and analyzed then published in a series of USDA reports, including the *Prospective Plantings* report and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on March 30.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Kenerson. All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Tennessee Field Office at 800-626-0987.

###